

DAVID • RAIMONDI • DE LANDRO • REBER

X-FACTOR[®]



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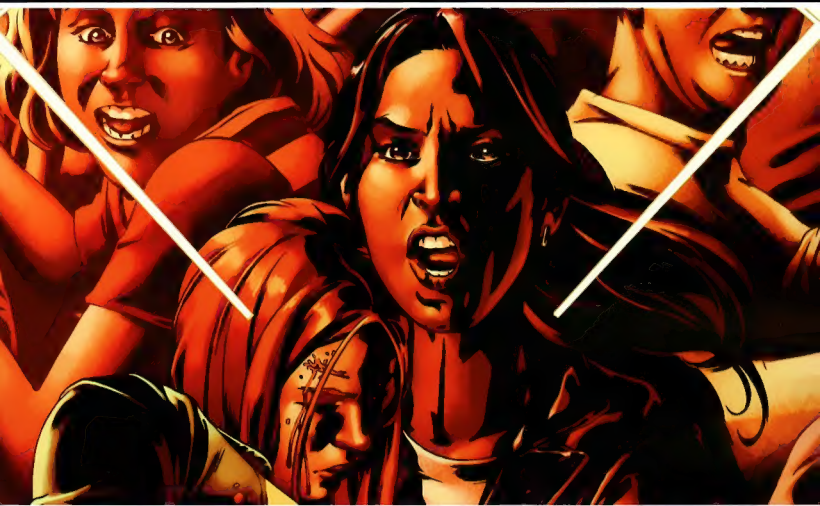
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PABLO & REBER
2007

IN A SOCIETY WHERE MUTANTS AND FORMER MUTANTS ALIKE FEEL THREATENED BY THE WORLD AROUND THEM, THEY TURN TO THEIR FIRST, BEST LINE OF DEFENSE, WHO NEVER TROUBLE ARISES: X-FACTOR, THE PRIVATE DETECTIVE AGENCY FOUNDED BY MADROX, THE MULTIPLE MAN.

X-FACTOR

WHEN WE LAST LEFT OUR HEROES...



X-FACTOR HAS BEEN LED TO BELIEVE THAT JOSEF HUBER, A.K.A. THE ISOLATIONIST, WAS AN ALLY WITH THE BEST INTEREST OF MUTANTKIND AT HEART, AS HE PROPOSED TO HAVE THE REMAINING MUTANTS DECLARED AN ENDANGERED SPECIES UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT. BUT THEY WERE WRONG. INSTEAD THEY WERE TIPPED OFF BY LAYLA MILLER (WHO BARELY SURVIVED ASSAULTS ON HER LIFE BY THE FRENCH ORPHAN, NICOLE, AND THEN BY QUICKSILVER) THAT HUBER HAS SOMETHING FAR MORE SINISTER UP HIS SLEEVE.

MADROX, GUIDO AND RAHNE WERE CONVINCED THEY COULD TAKE HUBER DOWN. BUT THEY WERE WRONG. INSTEAD HUBER, REALIZING THE JIG IS UP, DISPLAYED A VAST AND IMPRESSIVE ASSORTMENT OF POWERS. HUBER, WITH THE AID OF A TELEPORTATION DEVICE, HAS BANISHED OUR THREE HEROES TO AN ARCTIC WASTELAND WHERE THEY CAN FREEZE TO DEATH, WITH ONLY RICTOR AVOIDING THEIR FATE.

MEANTIME MONET AND SIRYN ARE INVOLVED IN A SEPARATE CASE, IN WHICH A PAIR OF GRANDPARENTS ARE SEEKING VISITATION RIGHTS WITH THEIR MUTANT-HATING GRANDCHILDREN - A CASE THAT YOU PROBABLY THOUGHT WAS WHOLLY UNRELATED TO THE MAIN STORY. BUT YOU WERE WRONG.

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I DIDN'T
WANT IT TO BE
THIS WAY.

PICKING OFF THE
MUTANTS ONE-BY-ONE.
IT'S TIME-CONSUMING...
INELEGANT...

WHAT THE
HELL...?

...AND BORDERS ON
THE NEEDLESSLY
CRUEL.

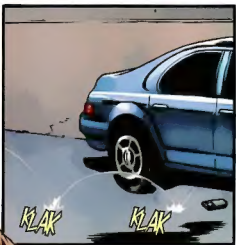
AND I AM NOT A CRUEL
MAN, MERELY A LONELY
AND DESPERATE ONE.
BUT I STILL HAVE
A SENSE OF MORALITY.

GIVE ME
THAT!

EH?

I SHUDDER OVER MY INTERFERING
WITH X-FACTOR'S FREE WILL, NOT TO
MENTION THAT OF CYCLOPS AND THE
BEAST. NOT DOMINATED THEM; JUST
MENTALLY "PUSHED" THEIR FEELINGS
IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. STILL, ONE
MUST SURVIVE HOWEVER ONE C--

OH, BLOODY
MARVELOUS.



YOU, MY DEAR RICTOR,
HAVE MADE A VERY
SERIOUS MISTAKE.

HOW GLORIOUSLY
IRONIC. WERE RICTOR STILL
A MUTANT... I WOULD HAVE
VAST RESERVATIONS ABOUT
ATTACKING HIM.

"RESERVATIONS"? UNDERSTATEMENT.
CHANCES ARE I COULDN'T DIRECTLY
DISPATCH HIM, COURTESY OF MY
"MENTAL BLOCK" ON THAT SCORE.

AT MOST, I COULD GENTLY
"SUGGEST" TO HIM THAT HE
DISPATCH HIMSELF, AND EVEN
THEN IT MIGHT NOT SUFFICE.

BUT SINCE HE IS
A MERE HUMAN...

ALL BETS
ARE OFF.



THE ISOLATIONIST

CONCLUSION

PETER
DAVID
WRITER

PABLO
RAIMONDI

AND

VALENTINE
DE LANDRO
ART

DREW
HENNESSY

BRIAN
REBER
COLORS

VC'S CORY
PETIT
LETTERS

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ANDY SCHMIDT
& NICK LOWE
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PUBLISHER



AS FOR THE OTHERS,
THEIR DEATHS
ARE REGRETTABLE...

BUT THEY'VE
SERVED THEIR
PURPOSE.

AND AS EACH
OF THEM DIES...

I'LL BE THAT
MUCH CLOSER
TO FREEDOM.

I
QUIT.



YOU CAN'T
QUIT, GUIDO. WE'LL...
WE'LL FIND A WAY
OUT OF THIS...

NO, I MEAN,
THIS IS TWO WEEKS'
NOTICE.

VAL COOPER
OFFERED ME A
NEW JOB. SHERIFF
OF MUTANT
TOWN.

I'M
TAKIN' IT.



AND YOU FELT
NOW WOULD BE
THE BEST TIME TO
SHARE THIS?

WELL...I
WASN'T SURE
THERE WAS
GONNA BE A
LATER TIME



WHAT ABOUT YOU,
RAHNE? ANYTHING
YOU WANT TO
SAY?

LIKE, WHY
YOU'RE NOT IN
YOUR WOLF
FORM, THE FUR
WOULD...



W-WOULD
WHAT? HELP ME...
OUTLIVE YE?

YE THINK I
WANT THAT? TO
STILL BE BREATHING
WHILE GUIDO AND YE
HAVE FROZEN
TO DEATH?



WE'RE ALL
GOING TO MAKE
IT, RAHNE.

YOU, OF ALL
PEOPLE, SHOULD
KNOW ABOUT
HAVING FAITH.



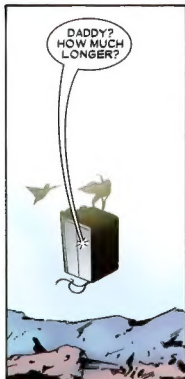
MAYBE
I, OF ALL
PEOPLE...

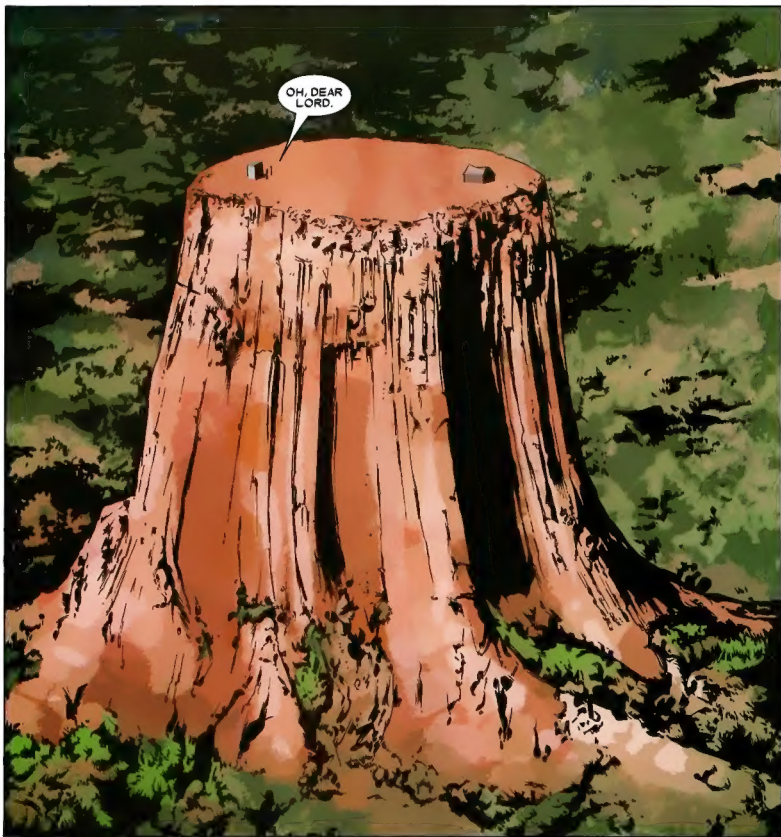
...KNOW THAT
FAITH ISN'T ALWAYS
ENOUGH.

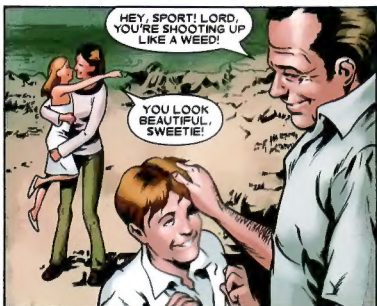
THAT BAD
THINGS HAPPEN TO
GOOD PEOPLE, NOT
BECAUSE OF GOD'S
PLAN...

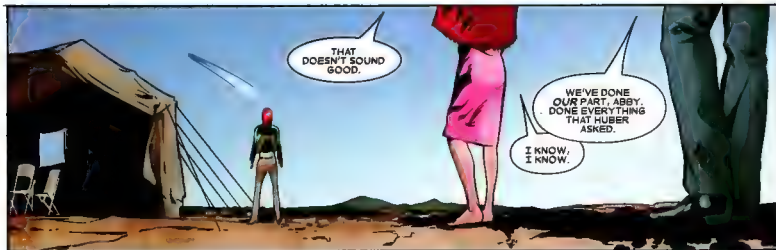
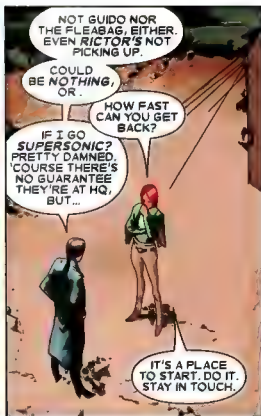


...BUT
BECAUSE THE
WORLD IS A COLD
AND TERRIBLE
PLACE.





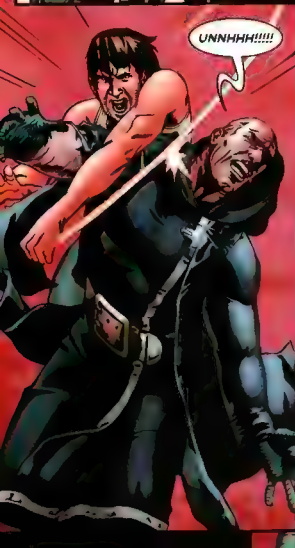






IS...IS THAT WHAT...YOU DID WITH THE OTHERS? "CONVINCED" THEM TO...TO GO ALONG WITH YOU?

MORE MENTALLY "GUIDED" THEM, ACTUALLY. I PREFER TO TRADE IN SUBTLETIES. USE MY MIND AS A SCALPEL, NOT A...



IMPOSSIBLE

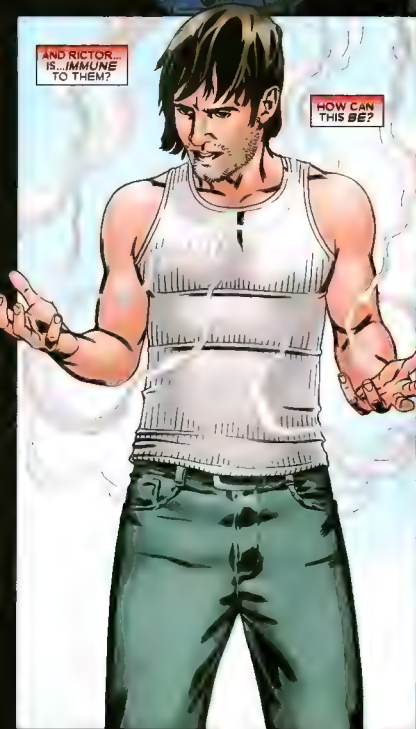


I POSSESS THE
POWER OF EVERY
LIVING MUTANT ON
EARTH.

POWERS I NEVER
ASKED FOR. NEVER
WANTED.

POWERS THAT NEVER
LEAVE ME ALONE
NOT FOR A SECOND.

POWERS THAT ONLY
MY MEDICATIONS ALLOW
ME TO CONTROL.



AND RICTOR
IS... IMMUNE
TO THEM?

HOW CAN
THIS BE?



ANSWER: IT CANNOT
BE. THIS MUST BE MY...
MY MIND WORKING
AGAINST ME ONCE MORE

THE SAME DAMNABLE
MENTAL BLOCK THAT
PREVENTS ME FROM
USING KILLING FORCE
UPON MUTANTS.

THAT HAS
TO BE IT.



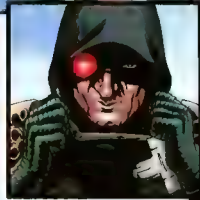
FOR YEARS I...ISOLATED MYSELF.
REMAINED HIDDEN. BECAUSE THE
MORE MUTANTS THERE WERE ON
EARTH, THE MORE POWER I HAD...

THE MORE IT
INVADED EVERY
CELL OF MY
BODY, MY MIND



THE ABILITIES OF EVERY
TELEPATH ON EARTH...
THE VOICES HOWLING IN
MY HEAD...

MY BODY, AT WAR
WITH ITSELF, HUNDREDS
OF DIFFERENT POWERS
RAGING WITHIN...



EXPLODING, MELTING,
FREEZING, FRYING...
AND HEALING, ALWAYS
HEALING...

WHILE MILLIONS
OF VOICES SCREAMED
IN MY MIND

HIDDEN AWAY IN THE
FROZEN NORTH, THE
DISTANCE AFFORDED ME
SOME RELIEF. SOME...

BUT NOT MUCH. MY
FAMILY'S VAST FORTUNE
ENABLED ME TO SURVIVE
BUT THAT'S ALL
I WAS DOING

M-DAY...IT WAS
A GODSEND.

THE DAY THAT
THE ENDLESS
HOWLING...

BECAME
MERELY A DULL
ROAR



...LIKE THE
THUNDER OF
A TRAIN.

FROM THAT
MOMENT, THE END
WAS IN SIGHT.

IF I COULD ELIMINATE
THE LAST OF THE
MUTANTS... THEN FINALLY
I WOULD KNOW PEACE.

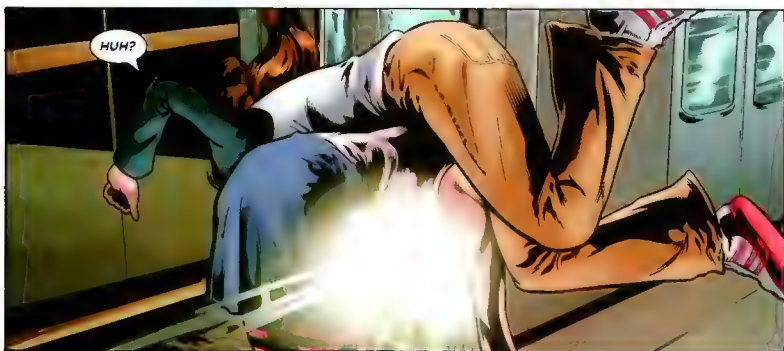
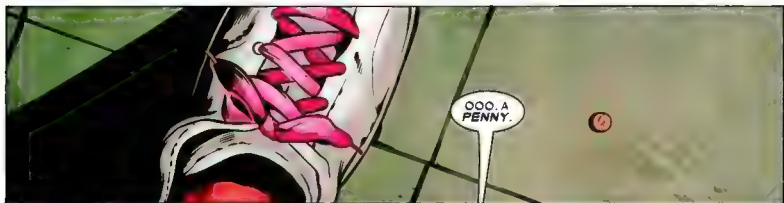
I SIMPLY NEEDED TO
AVOID TELEPATHS,
SINCE BEING NEAR THEM
REMAINED UNENDURABLE

AND LAYLA MILLER.
HER ABILITIES WERE
TOO UNPREDICTABLE
TO PLAN AROUND.

THAT'S
WHERE NICOLE
CAME IN

I NEEDED HER
TO DISPOSE OF
LAYLA.

IDEALLY,
IT WOULD
LOOK LIKE AN
ACCIDENT





AND NOW I
MERELY HAVE TO
FINISH OFF RIC--

OH, THIS IS
RIDICULOUS

HOW THE
DEVIL ARE YOU
DOING THIS?

WHAT, YOU
CAN'T JUST READ
MY MIND AND
FIGURE IT OUT FOR
YOURSELF?

READ YOUR
MIND? I'D NEED
SPECIAL GLASSES
TO DEAL WITH THE
TINY PRINT

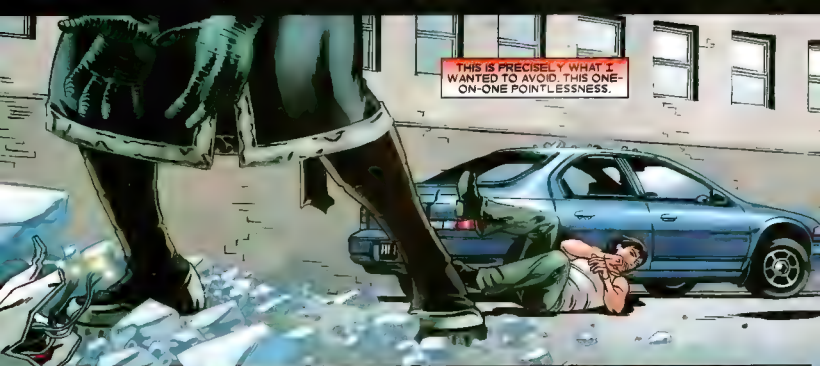
UH-
OH.

UH-OH
IS RIGHT

IF FOR WHAT-
EVER REASON, THE
DIRECT APPLICATION
OF MUTANT POWERS
CANNOT INJURE
YOU

KRAK!

I'LL SETTLE
FOR THE INDIRECT
APPLICATION!

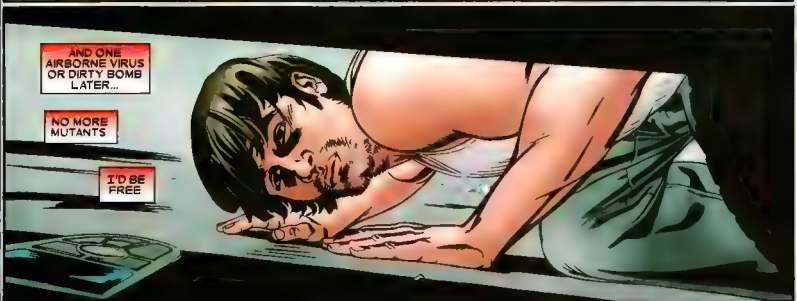


THIS IS PRECISELY WHAT I
WANTED TO AVOID. THIS ONE-
ON-ONE POINTLESSNESS.



IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SO
PERFECT. ALL THE REMAINING
MUTANTS AND A CONTINGENT OF
ONCE-AND-FORMER MUTANTS,
CONVERGING ON WASHINGTON.

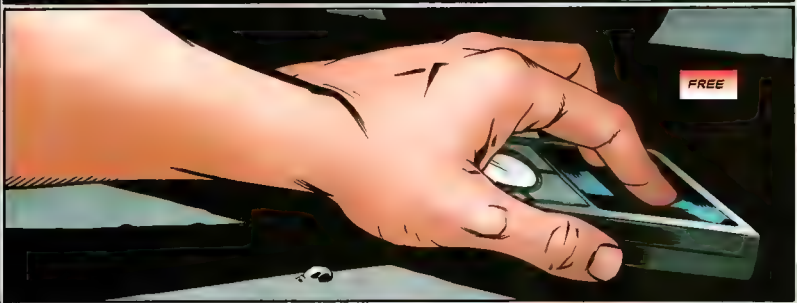
ALL OF THEM
IN ONE PLACE.



AND ONE
AIRBORNE VIRUS
OR DIRTY BOMB
LATER...

NO MORE
MUTANTS

I'D BE
FREE



FREE



ARRRRHHH!!!

RHHHHPP

LEGGO!!!

VERY WELL, MISTER RICTOR. I'LL LET YOU GO...

FROM THIS LIFE... INTO THE NEXT.



JAMIE...P-P-
PLEASE...

REAB-
ABSORB US

DON'T
WANT TO...
TO...

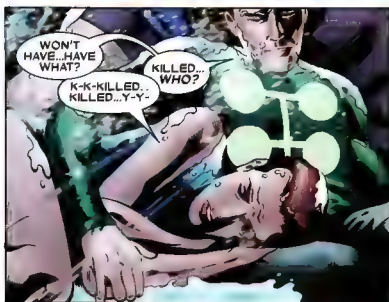
...DIE
LIKE...LIKE...
THIS...



JAMIE...G-G-GOTTA
MOVE--GOTTA TRY
AND...AND FIND...
SOMEPLACE...

THERE...
ISN'T ANY...PLACE...
GUIDO I

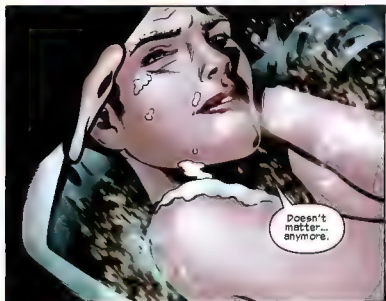
AT LEAST
I...I WON'T
HAVE..



WON'T
HAVE...HAVE
WHAT?

K-K-KILLED...
KILLED...Y-Y-

KILLED...
WHO?



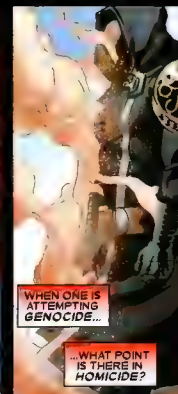
Doesn't
matter...
anymore.

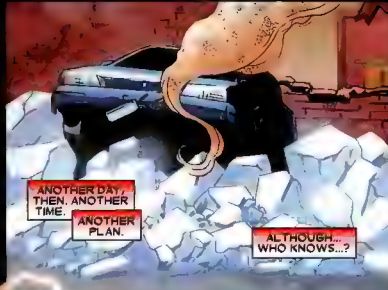


Look, Jamie...
the Lord...hasn't
abandoned us...

He's
bringing us
home...

...Where
we'll know peace...
forever

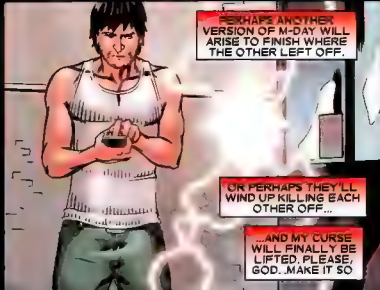




ANOTHER DAY.
THEN. ANOTHER
TIME.

ANOTHER
PLAN.

ALTHOUGH...
WHO KNOWS...?



PERHAPS ANOTHER
VERSION OF M-DAY WILL
ARISE TO FINISH WHERE
THE OTHER LEFT OFF.

OR PERHAPS THEY'LL
WIND UP KILLING EACH
OTHER OFF...

...AND MY CURSE
WILL FINALLY BE
LIFTED. PLEASE,
GOD... MAKE IT SO



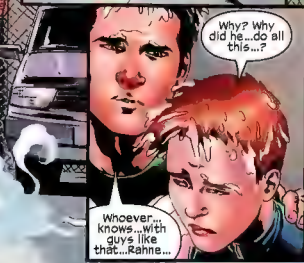
HOLY
CRAP!



IT'S OKAY!
YOU GUYS ARE
GONNA BE FINE!
WE'LL WARM
YOU UP!

W-w-where...
Huber...?

GONE.
TOOK OFF.



Why? Why
did he...do all
this...?

Whoever...
knows...with
guys like
that...Rahne...



"THEY'RE VILLAINS.
THAT'S ALL WE EVER
NEED TO KNOW
ABOUT OUR ENEMIES.
JUST...BAD GUYS..."

"AYE, JAMIE. MAY THEY
ALL ROT ALONE IN THEIR..
SEPARATE HELLS."

THE END


Witness the death of a species...

X-MEN: ENDANGERED SPECIES is a 17-part limited series consisting of 8-page backup stories that run weekly in the pages of the X-titles (**UNCANNY X-MEN**, **X-MEN**, **X-FACTOR** and **NEW X-MEN**). Hank McCoy, as the preeminent scientific mind in the mutant community, searches for a way to reverse the disastrous effects of M-Day. But as he draws closer to an answer, what price will he have to pay for the chance to be a savior?

PREVIOUSLY IN ENDANGERED SPECIES:

Since M-Day, **BEAST** has labored to find a cure for the loss of the mutant gene to no avail. Aghast by the realization he was trading his morality for slim hope, Beast accepted the futility of his research. He abandoned his hope in a scientific solution and met with **DOCTOR STRANGE** to discuss a possible answer in magic. Strange lead him through a physical manifestation of the **SCARLET WITCH**'s spell, the very cause of M-Day. Strange explained there was a small chance of reversing this spell, but warned that the magic weaves through the fabric of the universe itself. Even a minor miscalculation could destroy the entire world, a risk he was not willing to take.





THE LORD
GOD HAS HEARD
MY PRAYERS, AND
HAS SHOWN ME
A VISION.

Endangered Species

CHAPTER
15

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CARAMAGNA**
LETTERER

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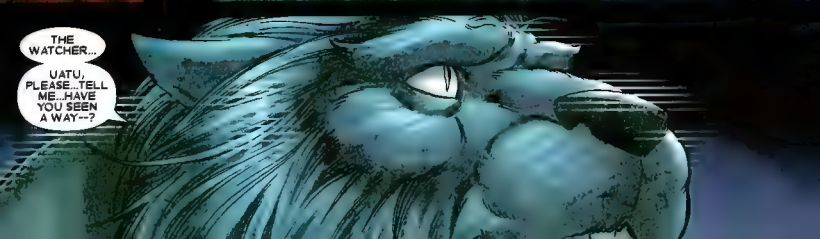
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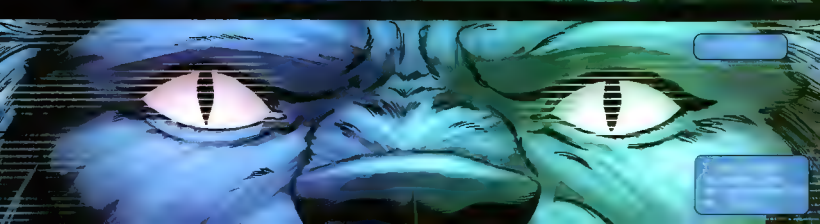
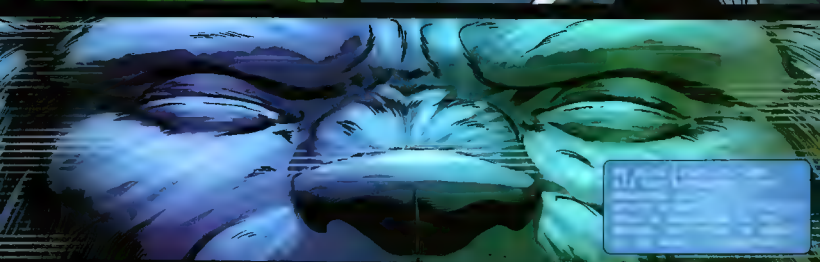
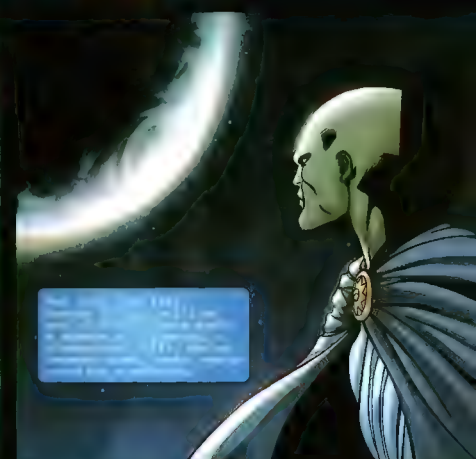
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EDITOR IN CHIEF

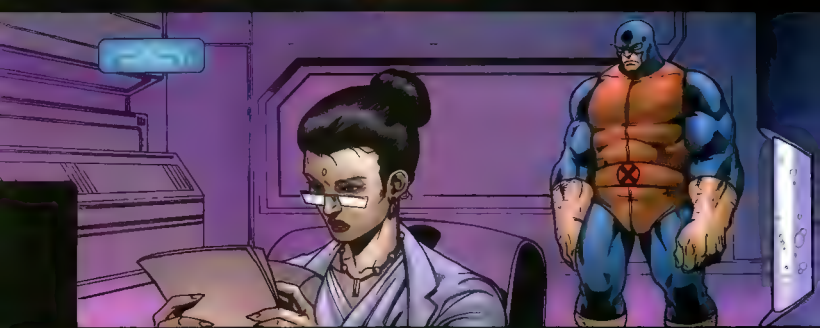
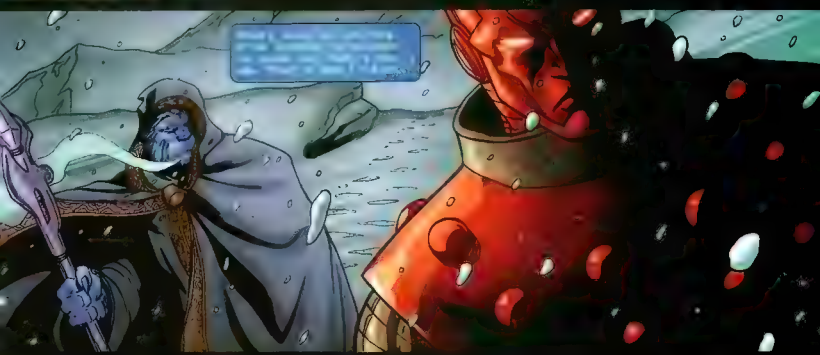
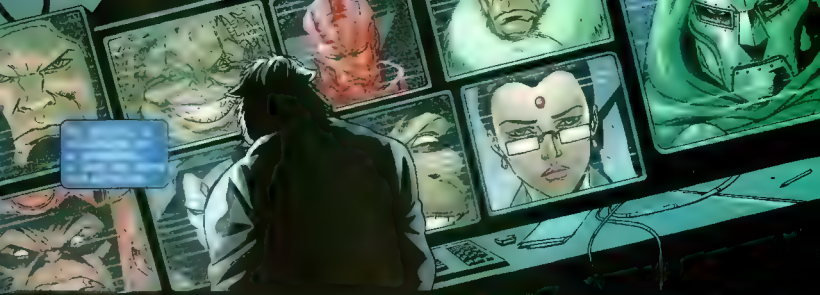
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BUCKLEY**
PUBLISHER

SPECIAL THANKS TO
**MIKE CAHEY &
ANDY SCHMITT**









Lives of
science,
of sorcery.



of machinery,
of faith.




of arcane
technology
and power.




All of these
lives, on the
same journey.







As a scientist,
I am certain.



And yet, I see my other
selves just as certain
in faith, in magic, in
violence, in a hundred
other worldviews that I
have never considered.



All of us approaching
this problem from a
different place, all of
us certain that our
chosen paths will lead
us to an answer.



And I see how
narrow my own
experience is.



WELCOME
BACK, MASTER.
DOCTOR
MCCOY.

THE
SCENIC ROUTE,
STEPHEN?

YOU
NEEDED TO SEE,
HENRY. YOU NEEDED
TO KNOW, IN ORDER
TO ACCEPT.

HOW
DO YOU
FEEL?



DGP

TEAM SCAN



DRABARAS & WEZZ

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